

a particular medical procedure. It is highly important that patients undergoing medical treatment or procedures be given the proper information relating to the procedure, post-procedure care, and follow-up actions. However, even when medical device manufacturers provide the necessary information, it can sometimes be difficult for a health care services provider to differentiate between that which is to be retained by the health care services provider and that which is to be delivered to the patient. Said differently, it is frequently difficult to visually discern whether a particular leaflet, printed material, or handout is to be given to the patient. In other cases the health care provider is simply unaware of the availability of the information.

Embodiments of the present invention provide a solution to the problems cited in the preceding paragraph by providing a patient aid, suitable for inclusion within a medical kit, that includes patient education information relating to a particular medical procedure. While health care services provider information is also included, in one embodiment the information for the health care services provider is physically separate from the patient aid. Additionally, to make recognition easier, the patient aid is configured with a greeting card appearance, activity sheet appearance, or other graphical indicia that indicates that the patient aid is intended for the patient. The appearance of the patient aid also serves to indicate that the patient aid should be delivered to the patient.

In one embodiment, the patient aid is configured with pediatric patient education material so as to be aesthetically pleasing and entertaining to children. In another embodiment, the patient aid comprises a greeting card appearance on an outward facing portion, with patient information being disposed inside, so as to be aesthetically pleasing and comforting to adults. The pediatric patient education material and greeting card are but two illustrative examples of patient aids suitable for inclusion with medical procedure kits as described herein. It will be clear to those of ordinary skill in the art having the benefit of this disclosure that other aesthetically pleasing, entertaining, and/or comforting disguises for patient education information may be created without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosure.

Where the patient aid is included with a medical procedure kit, in one embodiment a label, intended for the health care services provider, is configured with indicia indicating that a patient aid is enclosed. The label, which can be configured as a first portion of the health care services provider information or as a booklet, can be applied to the surrounding packaging material. For example, in a pediatric medical procedure kit, a printed label can be adhesively affixed to a layer of packaging material, with the printed label having disposed thereon a caricature indicating that the medical procedure kit is intended for pediatric use and includes pediatric material. The caricature reminds the health care services provider that not only is patient education information included, but also that the patient education information should be delivered to the user. Other reminders and mnemonic devices can be included as well. For example, in one embodiment the printed label is configured as a booklet having pressure sensitive adhesive disposed between the pages. When the pages are opened, a “CSHH-HHHKKKK” sound emanates. In one embodiment, providers of the medical procedure kit instruct health care services providers to “remember, whenever you hear that sound, there is patient education material that needs to be given to the patient.” Accordingly, the audible sound serves as a mnemonic indicating that the patient aid should be given to the patient.

In one embodiment, the patient aid comprises a first portion and a second portion, both of which are either carried on, disposed on, or coupled to a carrier. The first portion is an outwardly visible portion and the second portion is an education portion. The education portion is configured with an informational set related to medically educating the intended recipient, i.e., the patient. The first portion can be configured to be aesthetically pleasing, entertaining, and/or comforting. Accordingly, the first portion forms somewhat of a disguise for the information set, in that it softens and eases the delivery of medical information. As noted, in one embodiment the first portion is configured as having a greeting card appearance. In another embodiment, the first portion can be configured as an activity card. The patient aid can then be folded such that the first portion faces outward and the second portion faces inward. The patient education aid provides the patient, or those associated with assisting the patient, with education on the procedure performed on the patient as well as care instructions for the patient or relative to administer subsequent to leaving professional care.

The embodiments described herein work to facilitate delivery of this information to the patient, thereby reducing hospital readmissions, improving patient satisfaction, promoting self care and preventative healthcare, and improving patient compliance with medical instructions. Additionally, the labels, configurations, and mnemonic devices described herein work to prevent the patient education information from being thrown away inadvertently. In short, embodiments described herein get health care services providers to simply notice that patient education information is included to be given to the patient. The aesthetically pleasing, entertaining, and/or comforting appearance not only gets the health care provider to notice the patient education material, but also facilitates making them actually desire to provide the information to the patient.

In one or more embodiments, the patient aid, be it pediatric or adult, is included with a medical procedure kit that includes medical products, devices, and assemblies for performing a medical procedure. For illustration only, and for simplicity of description, a catheterization medical procedure kit will be used as an example to describe features and benefits of embodiments of the invention. However, it will be clear to those of ordinary skill in the art having the benefit of this disclosure that embodiments of the invention are not so limited. Other medical procedure kits for performing other procedures could be substituted for the illustrative catheterization tray disclosed herein by substituting other medical implements for the catheterization implements.

In the illustrative embodiment, the medical procedure kit comprises a tray with one or more medical devices or assemblies disposed therein. It will be understood that the tray can be substituted with other containment devices. Further, it will be understood that the tray can be configured to be generically shaped or procedure-specifically shaped. For example, when the medical procedure kit is configured for a catheterization procedure, the tray can be configured as a single container configured to accommodate not only the catheter assembly and fluid bag, but also syringes containing sterile water or lubricants. Further, the tray can accommodate a sterile specimen jar for capturing samples taken from the patient via the catheter. In addition to simply accommodating these corresponding medical devices, in one embodiment the tray is configured to provide the medical services provider with instructions and with mnemonic devices indicating in which order to use each device. For example, a